

Regular Meeting Gravette City Council

September 16, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Howard 7:00 p.m. In attendance were council members Chris Beller, Byron Warren, Terry King, Brent Cannon, Forrest White and Tina Crose. City Attorney Tom Smith, City Recorder/Treasurer Mike von Ree and Director of Public Services Junior Hartley were also present. Mayor Howard led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting 8/26/2010

Minutes of the August 26, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Warren made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Beller seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting 9/9/10

Minutes of the September 9, 2010 Committee of the Whole Meeting were reviewed. Warren made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. King seconded the motion, a vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

New Business

Billings for Water West

J. R. Gibbs addressed the council concerning collections of unpaid water bills for the water west project. He told the council that he had collected \$8,000.00 thus far. He also explained that approximately \$30,000.00 is uncollectible for several reasons, customers are deceased, have moved or have filed bankruptcy.

McGoodwin, Williams and Yates

Warren made a motion to terminate business with the engineering firm McGoodwin, Williams and Yates. Warren stated that he felt that there was a lack of cooperation between the city and the engineers. Von Ree, speaking as a former council member stated that he had excellent communication and cooperation with McGoodwin, Williams and Yates during the Water West Project. This project came in on schedule and within budget and is now showing a profit.

Carl Yates explained the timeline and work to date completed on the sewer upgrade project. The question was also posed to Warren as to whether or not he had a personal grudge against the engineering firm because his former stepfather was the son of one of the founding members of the firm. Warren denied that his motives were personal,

withdrew his motion, and made a motion to proceed with Option #1 and to retain McGoodwin, Williams and Yates. King seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Crose aye, White aye, Cannon aye, Beller aye, King aye, Warren aye, all ayes, motion passed. Option #1 is estimated to cost \$7,700,000.00.

Brandon Boundary Adjustment

King made a motion to transfer property between Strawberry Ridge Road and property owned by Leland Brandon to the Brandon family. The Brandon's have been paying property taxes on this piece of land for many years. The property was once part of the now abandoned Gravette city dump. Beller seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

Roll Off Sanitation Services

This issue was tabled to the October 14, 2010 committee of the whole meeting.

Purchasing Manual

Warren made a motion to adopt the City of Gravette Purchasing Manual as presented. Cannon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

2011 Benton/Washington County Imaging Project Agreement

Beller made a motion to pay a fee of \$2,576.00 for Gravette's part of the 2011 Benton/Washington County Imaging Project. White seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Crose aye, White aye, Cannon aye, Beller aye, King nay, Warren nay, four ayes, two nays, motion passed.

2010 City Tax Levy

King made a motion to table the issue to the October 28, 2010 city council meeting.

BWRWA Customer Increase

The Benton/Washington Rural Water Authority requested a \$1.50 per water tap increase for the next 15 months to offset shortfalls in expenses to upgrade the water plant in Avoca. Beller made a motion to adopt the increase. Cannon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Crose aye, White aye, Cannon aye, Beller aye, King nay, Warren nay. Four ayes, two nays, motion passed.

Appointment of Bobbie Woods to the Gravette Planning Commission

Beller made a motion to appoint Bobbie Woods to the Gravette Planning Commission. Crose seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

Rural Fire Protection

King made a motion to add rural fire protection to the agenda. Warren seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed. Allyson Ransom told the council that Star Butler requested permission to write a letter to the county judge. The letter would request that the judge contact the state concerning continuation of funding to the rural/volunteer fire departments that had been cut from the state budget. Warren made a motion to allow Star Butler to write a letter to the county judge. Beller seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

Comments from Council Members

Annexation Interest

King thanked the citizens who attended the meeting for their concerns about the annexation election on the November 2, 2010 ballot.

White commented that anyone against the annexation should vote against it.

Paving of Limekiln Road

Junior Hartley was asked about the status of the paving of Limekiln Road. He told the council that per information available, the county will pave the road if the city pays for the material.

Comments from the City Attorney

Council for the party involved in the dog bite incident at the 2009 4th of July fireworks show asked for information concerning the city's liability insurance. They were informed that the city does not have liability insurance.

A motion to adjourn was made by Beller and seconded by King. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.



Michael von Ree
City Recorder/Treasurer